# CLAIMS

[c1]    1.    In a controller, a method for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, the method comprising:

sending a message to a communication device, the message being for determining whether the communication device wishes to stay a participant in the net; and

listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the communication device sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c2]    2.    The method of claim 1, further including deleting the communication device from a list of participants in the net if the communication device does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c3]    3.    The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

[c4]    4.    The method of claim 1, further including determining latency with respect to the response.

[c5]    5.    The method of claim 1, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

[c6]    6.    The method of claim 5, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

[c7]    7.    The method of claim 1, wherein the response includes information identifying the communication device.

[c8]    8.    The method of claim 1, wherein the sending includes sending the message to a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

[c9]    9.    In a communication device, a computer-readable medium embodying a method for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, the method comprising:

sending a message to a communication device, the message being for determining whether the communication device wishes to stay a participant in the net; and

listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the communication device sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c10]     10.     The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method further includes deleting the communication device from a list of participants in the net if the communication device does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c11]     11.     The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

[c12]     12.     The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method further includes determining latency with respect to the response.

[c13]     13.     The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

[c14]     14.     The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

[c15]     15.     The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the response includes information identifying the communication device.

[c16]     16.     The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the sending includes sending the message to a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

[c17]     17.     A controller for determining participants in a net within a group communication network, comprising:

means for sending a message to a communication device, the message being for determining whether the communication device wishes to stay a participant in the net; and

means for listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the communication device sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c18]   18.   The controller of claim 17, further including means for deleting the communication device from a list of participants in the net if the communication device does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c19]   19.   The controller of claim 17, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

[c20]   20.   The controller of claim 17, further including means for determining latency with respect to the response.

[c21]   21.   The controller of claim 17, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

[c22]   22.   The controller of claim 21, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

[c23]   23.   The controller of claim 17, wherein the response includes information identifying the communication device.

[c24]   24.   The controller of claim 17, wherein the sending includes sending the message to a push-to-talk (PTT) device.

[c25]   25.   A controller for determining participants in a net within in a group communication network, comprising:

a memory unit for storing information about participants in the net;

a transmitter to send a message to a communication device;

a receiver to receive a response from the communication device; and

a processor communicatively coupled to the receiver, the transmitter, and the memory unit, the processor being capable of:

sending a message to a communication device, the message being for determining whether the communication device wishes to stay a participant in the net; and

listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the communication device sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c26]     26.     The controller of claim 25, wherein the processor is further capable of deleting the communication device from a list of participants in the net if the communication device does not send a response to the message within a predetermined time period.

[c27]     27.     The controller of claim 25, wherein the message includes information identifying the communication device.

[c28]     28.     The controller of claim 25, wherein the processor is further capable of determining latency with respect to the response.

[c29]     29.     The controller of claim 25, wherein the message includes a message identifier.

[c30]     30.     The controller of claim 29, wherein the response includes information identifying the message identifier.

[c31]     31.     The controller of claim 25, wherein the response includes information identifying the communication device.

[c32]     32.     The controller of claim 25, wherein the sending includes sending the message to a push-to-talk (PTT) device.